

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed November 25, 2005 has been carefully considered. Within the Office Action Claims 1-3, 9, 16, 17, 23, 26, 31, 35, 45 and 49 have been rejected. The Applicant has amended Claims 1, 16, 26, 31, and 45. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Election of Species

The Applicant points out that withdrawn Claims 4-8, 10-15, 18-22, 24-25, 27-30, 32-34, 36-44 and 46-48 are dependent upon allowable generic claims. The Examiner states in the Office Action dated 11/12/05 that the withdrawn claims are drawn to a non-elected species due to there being no allowable generic or linking claim. However, the Examiner admits in the Office Action dated 8/15/2005 that he agrees with the Applicant's argument that Claims 1, 16, 26, 31, 36, 39 and 45 are generic. (August 15, 2005 Office Action, Paragraph 2). Claims 4-8 and 10-15 are dependent on generic Claim 1; Claims 18-22 and 24-25 are dependent on generic Claim 16; Claims 27-30 are dependent on generic Claim 26; and Claims 32-34 are dependent on generic Claim 31. Independent Claim 45 was admitted by the Examiner to be a generic claim. Accordingly, Claims 46-49 are dependent on generic Claim 45. Therefore, Applicant submits that Claims 4-8, 10-15, 18-22, 24-25, 27-30, 32-34, 36-44 and 46-48 will be subject to rejoinder once Claims 1, 16, 26, 31 and 45 are held to be allowable. MPEP 821.04

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 2, 3, 9, 16, 17, 23, 26, 31, 35, 45, and 49 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,586,859 to Kornblush et al. (hereinafter Kornblush). The Applicant respectfully traverses.

Kornblush is directed to animated devices comprising one or more electroactive polymers. More particularly, the Kornblush relates the invention to animatronic devices which are devices with motion likeness of a human, creature, or animal. Kornblush specifies animatronic devices to include animatronic puppets, masks, robots, creatures, special effects make-up, scenic props, sets, and other items used in themed rides, dark walks, scenery, and special effects for the film and television industries.

The claimed invention(s) are not directed to animated devices as described in Kornblush. Instead, the specification refers to the interface device as a manipulandum which allows a user to interface with computer system and provide input to the computer system, whereby the computer system provides haptic feedback back to the user through the manipulandum. (Present specification, Page 1, Lines 32-35). The specification mentions that these types of manipulandums include but are not limited to a joystick handle, mouse, wheel, medical device, touch screen, stylus, touchpad, etc. (Present specification, Page 2, Lines 1-9). Therefore, the claimed invention(s) are distinguishable from Kornblush. Nonetheless, the Applicant has amended Claims 1, 16, 26, 31, and 45 to recite a manipulandum device adapted to allow interaction between a user and a computer. Accordingly, Claims 1, 16, 26, 31, and 45 are distinguishable from Kornblush and are therefore in a condition for allowance.

Claims 2, 3, 9, 17, 23, 35, and 49 have been rejected as well. However, Claims 2, 3, 9, 17, 23, 35, and 49 are dependent on Independent Claims. Claims 1, 16, 26, 31, and 45 are

allowable for at least the reasons stated above. Accordingly, Claims 2, 3, 9, 17, 23, 35, and 49 are allowable for being dependent on allowable base claims.

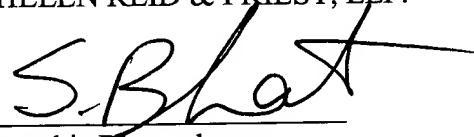
Conclusion

The Applicant submits that the above amendments and arguments place the present application in a condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a telephone call would help advance prosecution of the present invention, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the number below.

Please charge any additional required fees or credit any overpayment not otherwise credited, to our deposit account no. 50-1698.

Dated: 2/27/06

Respectfully submitted,
THELEN REID & PRIEST, LLP.


Suvashis Bhattacharya
Reg. No. 46,554

Thelen Reid & Priest LLP
P.O. Box 640640
San Jose, CA 95164-0640
Tel. (408) 282-1855
Fax. (408) 287-8040